



General Orders No 2

August 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

What an exciting way to start the year! Pennsylvania's own Donna Mills was installed as National President at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno! Pennsylvania is so proud of you Madam National President Donna and we are here for you!

Congratulations to all Auxiliaries and Chairmen who brought home awards at the National Convention. and to the Department of Pennsylvania for again being inducted into the Circle of Excellence! Ten years in a row is an amazing record.

This month is going to be full of training for everyone. The OTRs begin August 2 and continue each weekend throughout the state. We have seven (7) sessions set up this year and they will be filled with information and fun. The schedule for the trainings are available on the Department website along with an overview of the topics being covered. This is a way to get to know other members of the Auxiliary and to share and develop ideas.

Reminder to all Treasurers: the bond for your Auxiliary must be renewed no later than August 31st when your current bond expires. Please renew it today – don't wait until the final deadline. At the same time go to the IRS website and file your E990 Postcard. Taking care of these items early saves us all time and less headaches. <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/>

Thank you to Program Chairman Amy Peterson and Co-Chairman Joey Diehl for an absolutely fun filled informative Program Conference. Your hard work is appreciated. To the Program Chairmen – your tables were wonderful and had valuable information for everyone to take back with them.

I'm looking forward to meeting and talking with many of you during the OTR's and during the District visits. Thanks to all of you for what you do for our Veterans, their families and the Community and for continuing to do **"Simply the Best for Our Veterans."**

Loyally,

Cecil

Cecelia Cook
Department President

Jodie

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

DEPT OF PENNSYLVANIA MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM GENERAL ORDERS #2 - AUG 2026

Tina Hinkle, Chairman
tina@vfw5265.org
#simplythebestforourveterans
#servingamericasheroes
#vfwauxiliarypa #vfwauxiliary

**HIT the ICE
and
SCORE GOALS!**



IT'S A MEMBERSHIP NIGHT IN
Pennsylvania

"Simply the Best for our Veterans", their families, and our communities!
Serving America's Heroes

August is filled with many opportunities for learning! **Sign up for OTR!** *Registration for On the Road Training is required – don't miss out – sign up today!*

"Hat Trick" Award is for Auxiliary members attending OTR, events and meetings. To qualify, complete the "Hat Trick" Award form and submit by April 30, 2027 (excludes Dept Line Officers).



Life is better when we STICK TOGETHER! Get dues notices to your Annual Members! Let them know they can pay their own dues in MALTA or by calling 866-299-1286.

REMINDER! Annual membership cards will not be mailed. Members are encouraged to access MALTA and print their card or download their card to their phone. Refer to the TIP Sheet to download membership cards.

**GO
PENNS
LYVANIA!**

PAID Membership
as of 7/30/26
73.79%
32,237 / 43,686



"Great Balls of Fire"
as of 7/30/26
100%+
D27: 3368
D28: 3374, 7842

SHARE the Membership QR Codes!

The VFW and the Auxiliary each have their own QR codes - they are convenient and provide easy access to up-to-date information.

Remember to include the QR codes along with membership applications at Buddy Poppy drives.



"Breakaway" Award
First District President
to reach 100%+ paid membership
scores 2 banquet tickets
for President's Testimonial Dinner!



ALL STATE DRILLS!

- OTR Attendance
- District Meeting Attendance
- Christmas Canteen Donation must be received by Department by October 31



Who is Loretta? And why does she need to Look Out?

"Look out, Loretta!" was a playful warning call from Pittsburgh Penguins announcer Mike Lange.

How to Store Your VFW Auxiliary Membership Card on Your Phone

iPhone Instructions

to Add Your VFW Auxiliary Membership Card to Apple Wallet (iPhone)

1. Open the **VFW Auxiliary App** and sign into your account.
2. Tap **Membership** or **My Membership Card**.
3. Open your **digital membership card**.
4. Tap the **Add to Apple Wallet** button*.
5. When the Apple Wallet preview appears, tap **Add** in the upper right corner.
6. Tap **Done**.
7. Open the **Wallet app** on your iPhone to view your VFW Auxiliary membership card anytime.

* If you don't see an "Add to Apple Wallet" button:

- Make sure you are signed into the app with your current membership information.
- Update the VFW Auxiliary app to the latest version.
- If the option still isn't available, contact your Department or National Headquarters for assistance with your digital membership card.

TIP: Once your card is in Apple Wallet, you can quickly access it by opening the **Wallet app** or by double-clicking the iPhone's side button (depending on your Wallet settings).

Android Instructions

to Add Your VFW Auxiliary Membership Card to Google Wallet (Android)

1. Open the **VFW Auxiliary – MALTA Mobile App** and sign in with your membership account.
2. Tap **Membership** or **My Membership Card** to display your digital membership card.
3. If you see an **Add to Google Wallet** button, tap it.*
4. Review the card information, then tap **Add** to save it to Google Wallet.
5. Open the **Google Wallet App** to confirm that your VFW Auxiliary membership card has been added.

* If you don't see an "Add to Google Wallet" button:

- Update the VFW Auxiliary app to the latest version.
- Make sure Google Wallet is installed and set up on your Android phone.
- At this time, the VFW Auxiliary App may not offer Google Wallet integration on all Android devices or app versions. If the option is unavailable, you can still access your digital membership card directly from the VFW Auxiliary app.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

GENERAL ORDERS #2, AUGUST 2026

Hospital volunteers are angels on earth, giving generously from the heart. One of the greatest gifts a volunteer can offer is the gift of time.

Volunteers and their voices are especially meaningful to hospitalized veterans. Abraham Lincoln is honored throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs, including plaques at the Washington, D.C., headquarters. One plaque features his words: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan." This quote helped shape the VA's mission to care for those who have served.

Who can volunteer? Members, non-members, youth, and families can all serve through our Hospital Program in many types of facilities where veterans receive care. Please recognize every volunteer with a citation or appreciation gift and let them know how much we value the time they spend with our veterans.

At times, female veterans in VA hospitals, VA homes, and nursing homes may be overlooked. Consider planning activities focused on them, such as a pampering day. Invite a beautician to style their hair, polish their nails, and help make the day special. They will appreciate the thoughtful attention.

This year, **I hope to see many submissions for the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.** I know we have many volunteers who qualify. Entry forms are available at vfwauxpa.org under Programs, Hospital, National Awards Form.

As we proudly "Serve America's Heroes," we continue to give "Simply the Best for Our Veterans."

Loyally,
Brenda Johnson
Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman



PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

GENERAL ORDERS #2

August 2026

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Department President Robin A. Kohler for our appointments as Representative and Deputy to Pa. Soldiers and Sailors Home in Erie, PA.

To all the Auxiliaries that have supported us in the past, we extend a sincere Thank You for all your donations.

We also want to thank all the volunteers, for without them, many things we do for our Veterans would not be done.

Because of your donations, all Veterans have enjoyed many activities.... fishing trips, visits to the zoo, Veterans' Home Week, bingos birthday parties, music and supply them with their many wants and needs.

Once again, we are asking for your support for our Veterans at the Pennsylvania Soldiers and Sailors Home.

Please send your donations earmarked PSSH to VFW Auxiliary of Pa., 4002 Fenton Ave, Harrisburg, Pa. 17109-5943.

Thank you for continue interest in serving our Veterans and their families.

Thank you again for your support for all our Veterans across the state.

Sincerely,

Doris

Doris L. Svitek, Representative

Marlane

Marlane E. Zaken, Deputy

Delaware Valley Veteran's Home
August 2026
General Orders #2

A Big Thank you to Madam Department President Ceil for appointing us as Representative and Deputies to Delaware Valley Veteran's Home. We are very happy that we can assist our Veteran's at the home.

The Veterans and their families will be very busy the next few months. They will be going on shopping trips, visit the Aquarium, BBQ'S, movies, various types of entertainment including bands, karaoke and DJ's. Along with painting with a twist.

If you would like to sponsor an event please earmark your check for the specific event. Make checks payable to the Department of PA VFW Auxiliary and send to our Department VFW Auxiliary, 4002 Fenton Ave Harrisburg, PA. 17109

We thank you for your donations and appreciate any help you will give while "**Serving America's Heroes**" and giving "**Simply the Best for our Veteran's.**"

Loyally,

Brenda Johnson, Representative

Lori Myers, Deputy

Mary Jean Mastridge, Deputy

Janet Bossman, Deputy

Veterans & Family Support

Kristy Murphy, Chairman

kmurphyvfwaux@gmail.com

General Orders #2 – August 2026



September is National Suicide Prevention Month

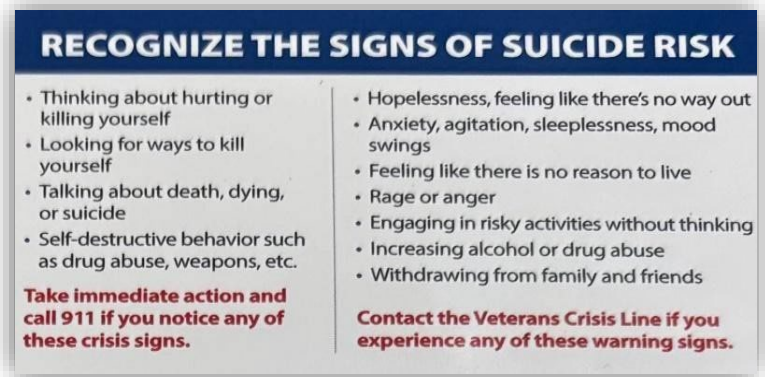
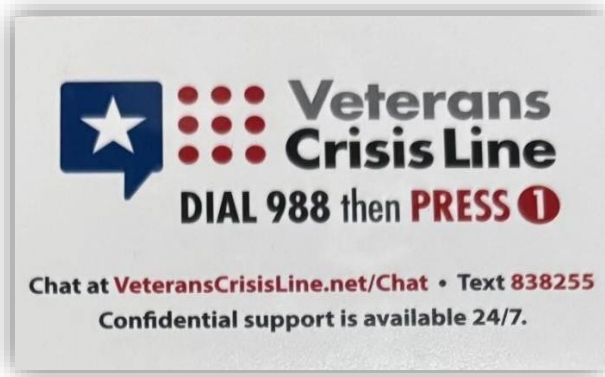
A month dedicated to raising awareness of warning signs & symptoms that may indicate someone is struggling. It's a reminder to pay attention, to reach out, and to create space for honest conversations about mental health.

If you notice changes in one's mood, behavior, or daily routines, encourage them to open up.

A sincere, judgment-free conversation can make a powerful difference. Check in on them, listen closely, and offer support without pressure.

Provide access to resources that can help them through whatever they're facing. Some individuals may need immediate attention — in those moments, provide the crisis line right away so they can get urgent support.

Your willingness to notice, to speak up, and to act could save a life.



RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- VFW Mental Wellness Campaign: vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness
- Give An Hour: giveanhour.org
- Campaign to Change Direction: changedirection.org
- One Mind: onemind.org
- PatientsLikeMe: patientslikeme.com/join/vfw
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation: elizabethdolefoundation.org

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4054484594826446>

Suicide Awareness and Prevention - VFW Department of PA

September (National Suicide Month)
10th World Suicide Prevention Day
13th-19th Suicide Prevention Week



“Serving America’s Heroes” with Suicide Awareness and promoting the resources available.

“Simply the Best for Our Veterans”

Americanism

This years' program Ambassador is asking us to use, POP (Point of Purchase) displays that are used to attract attention, to make it POP!!

With it being the 250th of our great Nation what an amazing opportunity to make things POP!



This upcoming year will be the perfect time to show how we are Serving Americas' Heroes, and we need Simply the Best for our Veterans!

I am listing the Military Observed Holidays! You can have so many opportunities to use POP images to support and promote the days.

SIGNIFICANT MILITARY OBSERVANCES

Feb. 3 – Four Chaplains Day

Feb. 19 – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

March

Mar. 3 – Navy Reserve Birthday

Mar. 13 – K-9 Veterans Day

Mar. 25 – Medal of Honor Day

Mar. 29 – Vietnam Veterans Day

April

Apr. – Month of the Military Child

Apr. 5 – Gold Star Spouses Day

Apr. 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday

Apr. 23 – Army Reserve Birthday

May

May – National Military Appreciation Month & Month of the Military Caregiver

May 1 – Silver Star Banner Day

May 8 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 13 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day

May 16 – Armed Forces Day

May 25 – Memorial Day

June

Jun. 6 – D-Day Anniversary

Jun. 14 – Flag Day & Army Birthday

Jun. 23 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

Jun. 27 – National PTSD Awareness Day

July

Jul. 4 – Independence Day – 250th anniversary

Jul. 27 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

August

Aug. 4 – Coast Guard Birthday

Aug. 7 – Purple Heart Day

Aug. 29 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

September

Sept. 11 – Patriot Day – 25th anniversary

Sept. 18 – Air Force Birthday

Sept. 19 – POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept. 27 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

October

Oct. 13 – Navy Birthday

Oct. 26 – National Day of the Deployed

November

Nov. – Military Family Month & Warrior Care Month

Nov. 10 – Marine Corps Birthday

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day

December

Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 13 – National Guard Birthday

Dec. 20 – Space Force Birthday

Dec. 20 – National Wreaths Across America Day

So, with all of the possibilities of this special celebration year, lets get to finals and bring home the Championship!!



VFWA Scholarships Programs, August 2026

Karen Mooney, Scholarships Program Chair



2026-2027 Program year is on its way. As we start the new program year, I would like to share with you how our State Patriotic Art Student Allijah Carmichael made out on the National Level. I am very proud to report that **Allijah placed 3rd in the Nation for the Young American Patriotic Art Contest this year!!!** What a great way to represent the Department of PA Allijah. Congratulations from all of us on this fabulous achievement. Allijah was sponsored by Auxiliary 15, District 21.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen contest is in full swing. If your Post has not yet shared this year's theme, get this information out sooner than later. This year we are working with one theme for both programs. This year theme is **"What a Veteran Taught Me About America"**. If our students do not have a direct line to a veteran in their family or friend circle, this may cause the students some challenges. Get the word out, consider hosting a "Come Meet A Veteran" event for students to give them the opportunity to gain access to a veteran for this project. The better we can prepare the students, the better essays we should receive.

Consider posting this information in/sharing with:

- *Your home posts
- *Your school contacts
- *Your local libraries
- *Your local community center
- * Your local sports teams
- *the local Senior Citizen Centers
- *Your local church bulletins
- *Community bulletin boards
- *Your local home school associations

It also never too early to start to share the applications for the Young Patriotic Art Program or the 3-D Art Program as well. All entry forms can be found using the QR code below. Remember that before you distribute any of these entry forms that you be sure to attach your contact information so that students know who to reach out to with questions and to know where to turn the completed products into by the set deadlines. Please remember that these deadlines are NOT FLEXIBLE!!!!!!

We will be running another **T-Shirt Fundraiser** this year for the Scholarships program. Flyer is attached. Short sleeve shirts only at this time and shirts offered will be red, white or Navy blue. Any shirt orders received will be delivered to Commanders Testimonial in November, to save on postage this year. Please let me know if you have any questions.

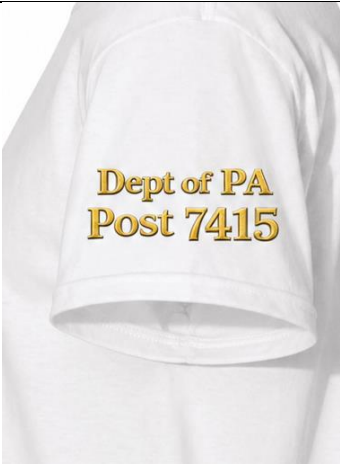
Please remember it's "Simply the Best For Our Veterans" and we should celebrate all that we do for our Veterans, our VFW, and our communities. The VFW Auxiliary MAKES a difference! Here's to the VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Programs!! Congratulations on a fabulous



Loyally,
Karen Mooney, Scholarships Program Chair
VFWA, Dept of PA



2026-2027 VFVA Department of PA T-Shirt Fundraiser Order Form

Name:	
Order Date:	District Number:
Address:	
Phone:	Email:
Short Sleeve Shirt: Red, White or Navy Blue Shirts Unisex size small-4xl	Cost: \$25.00
 Left Sleeve: Dept of PA and your Post/Aux Number	 Back of shirt: 250 Years of Freedom Secured By Veterans

Quant.	Shirt Color (Red, White, Navy Blue)	Post or Aux (Choose One)	Post/Aux. Number	Size	Cost	Check Number (can combine orders into one check)
Sample	Red	Aux	7415	XL	25.00	1234

Make payments out to:
 Mail form and payment to:

Karen Mooney
 Karen Mooney, Scholarships Chairman
 81 Greenwood Dr, New Cumberland PA 17070
 Cell: (717) 580-3994; Email: karenmooneycpc@comcast.net

Proceeds to be equally divided between VOD, PP, Continuing Education, Young Patriotic Art and 3-D Art Programs